

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method for producing a meat product or processed meat product, comprising the steps of:

preparing the meat product or processed meat product,

applying an alkaline aqueous solution of curdlan onto the meat product or processed meat product to form a film of curdlan gel onto the meat product or processed meat product, and

applying, onto the meat ~~produce~~ product or processed meat product with the film of the curdlan gel, an aqueous solution of any one of an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt and acid to complete the film of the curdlan gel.